



Designing Nutrition Interventions for School-Age Children in Nigerian Urban Informal Settlements: A Policy Analysis

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Abstract

Nigerian urban informal settlements face significant challenges in providing adequate nutrition for school-age children, leading to poor health outcomes and developmental issues. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with policymakers and quantitative data analysis of nutrition surveys from informal settlements to inform intervention design. Nutrition deficiencies were identified across key micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron, and zinc, affecting over 40% of school-age children in surveyed areas. There is a need for more targeted and culturally appropriate interventions that consider the socio-economic context of these settlements. The analysis highlights the critical role of government policies in supporting nutrition programmes but also underscores the necessity for community engagement to ensure effective implementation. Develop comprehensive, culturally sensitive nutrition education curricula and establish partnerships with local businesses to improve food availability. Policy recommendations include incentivizing schools to incorporate balanced meals into their daily schedules. Treatment effect was estimated with $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan African, Urbanization, Food Security, Public Health Policy, Anthropometrics, Feeding Programmes, Community Engagement*

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